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Paraguay - R



paraguay watch

CG003

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Come again?

Never mind, we heard him right. U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Alexander M. Haig said in July that because of "impressive changes" in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Paraguay his government would support multilateral loans to those countries -- thus ignoring a 1977 Congressional resolution requiring a negative vote for countries which demonstrate "a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights." Said Haig: "Without exception in each case the improvement has been dramatic."

The decision was quickly applied to Paraguay: on August 14 the Interamerican Development Bank announced approval of a \$27.5 million loan for rural development in the department of Paraguari (the rest of the \$39.1 million project to come from other sources). With today's inflation, the terms of the "soft loan" make it practically a gift: it is for 40 years with 10 years of grace, and 2% interest after that.

The administrators of the BID special fund, in which the U.S. holds effective veto power, accepted the promises of the Paraguayan government that the project will benefit 9,000 peasant families through the following subprojects: land titlement; credit for small farmers, businesses and handicrafts; agricultural extension assistance; local roads; rural electrification; rural schools; public health; and "organization and training to foster participation".

Human Rights Commission: no improvement

Meanwhile, the Paraguayan Commission for the Defense of Human Rights published its own evaluation of the situation in observance of the commission's 14th anniversary. Comparing this year with 1978 (the year of the Paraguayan Human Rights Congress), the commission found deterioration in some areas, in others an ominous "stability":

- "There is an increasing need to return to an independent, honest, capable and above all a reliably impartial and honorable Judiciary."
- "In recent years hundreds of prisoners have been set free.... But unfortunately, many political prisoners are still held with no justification...."

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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3551 (12/11)

Balance carried over; Disappeared in Argentina

The following list of Paraguayans disappeared in Argentina was delivered to Argentine officials last May by Paraguayan congresswoman Ligia Prieto de Centurión. The list includes age, occupation and date of disappearance (day, month, year) where available:

- 1) Avalos, Jorgelina Aquilina, 34, housewife, 9-6-77. 2) Almada Villalba, Carlos Alberto, medical student, 14-8-76. 3) Alvarez, Justo, 25. 4) Araujo de Naryáez, Porfiria, 27, housewife, 2-2-78. 5) Arzamendia, Celia, July 1976. 6) Benítez, Florencio, 45, paperer, 21-7-76. 7) Ballestrino de Careaga, Esther, 59, biochemist, 8-12-77. 8) Barreto Dávalos, Ricardo, 48, shoemaker, 15-10-77. 9) Cáceres, Amado Nelson, 17, student, 23-2-78. 10) Cáceres, Arnaldo Darío, 17, student, 23-2-78.
- 11) Cáceres de Simonetti, María Paula, 17, worker, 16-2-77. 12) Carrillo Rodríguez, Fausto Augusto, 32, lawyer, 16-8-76. 13) Corrales, Elizabeth María Victoria, 23, dentist, 18-8-77. 14) Culzoni, Armando, 24, metal worker, 22-9-76. 15) Chamorro Vera, Edilberto, 33, plasterer, 1-2-77. 16) Esquivel, Antero Daniel, 28, electrician, 2-2-77. 17) Fariña, Mario, 20-9-78. 18) Jara Torres, Anuncio, 38, construction worker, 20-9-78. 19) Kegler Krug, Marlene Katherine, 23, obstetrics student, 24-9-76. 20) Kleiner Lledo de Morales, Josefina M., 29, 26-9-76.
- 21) Goiburú Jiménez, Agustín, 47, doctor, 9-12-77. 22) Ledesma Medina, Oscar Eladio, worker, 5-8-76. 23) Maidana, Antonio, 27-7-80. 24) Orué, Griselda Elizabeth, 21, worker, 25-1-78. 25) Osuna Espínola, Lidia, 21, housewife, 22-5-78. 26) Parra, Jorge Rodolfo, 20, economics student, 9-4-76. 27) Patiño, Toribio, 39, mason, 20-6-78. 28) Penayo Ferreyra, Juan José, 2-77. 29) Peralta, Niseforo, 58, worker, 16-9-76. 30) Roa, Emilio, 27-7-80.
- 31) Samaniego Villamayor, Ignacio, 35, graphics worker, 18-9-78. 32) Solís de Patiño, Luciana, 35, housewife, 20-6-78. 33) Samudio, Manuel, 44, worker, 11-4-78. 34) Ramírez Medina, Mario, 45, worker, 9-2-79. 35) Tatter, Federico Jorge, 55, electrician, 22-9-77. 36) Vargas Bustamante de Rueda, María Antonia, 23, worker, 22-9-77. 37) Vera Báez, Cástulo, January 1977. 38) Von Schmeling, Hermann, 40, businessman, 15-11-(?) 39) Espinosa de Roles, Martina Concepción, 31, housewife, 13-9-77. 40) Benítez de González, Irma, 21-7-76. 41) Soto, Edilberto, shoemaker, 5-8-76.

The request for information on their whereabouts, which still has not been answered by the Argentine government, bears the signatures of 9 deputies and 2 senators in the Paraguayan Parliament.

There are active fears among their relatives that the disappearances are not just an accidental result of the "dirty war" in Buenos Aires, but that in some cases at least they were carried out at the request of Paraguayan authorities and the detainees returned to Paraguay as was the case with Remigio Giménez in Brazil).

In two of the above-mentioned cases, Paraguayan authorities have responded to diplomatic requests for information with the statement that they know nothing of the alleged arrest of Antonio Maidana and Emilio Roa, in Buenos Aires on July 27, 1980.

In the other cases, no news is... no news.